



Transportation and Community Planning
Office of the Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of Transportation Services Committee

FROM: Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, P.Eng.
Commissioner of Transportation and Community Planning

DATE: August 29, 2012

RE: **Yonge Subway Extension Planning Update Report**

This memorandum is partially in response to Regional Council's request on June 28, 2012 to report on developments regarding rapid transit planning in the City of Toronto impacting the Yonge subway extension project.

Regional Council at its meeting on June 28, 2012 requested staff to report on the implications of the City of Toronto's OneCity Transit Plan and how it would affect the rapid transit plans in York Region, particularly the Yonge subway extension to the Richmond Hill Centre.

Since the OneCity Transit Plan was not endorsed by Toronto City Council on July 11, 2012, the OneCity Transit Plan has no status and is no longer the transit strategy being pursued by the City. In light of this, the urgency to report to Regional Council on the OneCity impacts has been reduced.

Staff will track a further development expected in September 2012 in the City of Toronto and will report back as appropriate

Instead of debating the OneCity Transit Plan, City of Toronto Council has directed Toronto staff to report back in September 2012 on the work to-date arising from transit expansion matters and to report "in the second quarter of 2013 with a proposed City-wide transit plan to update the Official Plan and a prioritization strategy for all lines".

The Yonge subway extension is identified and planned in Metrolinx and municipal plans

Key plans which identify the Yonge subway extension from Finch Station to the Richmond Hill Centre/Langstaff Gateway include:

- Metrolinx's The Big Move
- York Region's Transportation Master Plan Update
- Toronto's Transit City Plan
- City of Markham and Vaughan's Plans

The Yonge subway extension remains unfunded but detailed planning work continues

A critical piece and a missing link of the GTHA rapid transit network and the highest rapid transit project priority for York Region, the Yonge subway extension remains unfunded. York Region has continued to move the Yonge subway extension project forward by partnering with the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) to complete the conceptual design of the subway extension in spring of this year. At the same time, York Region continues to work with Metrolinx to prepare the business case and other supporting technical data and documents necessary to help prioritise funding for the Yonge subway extension.

York Region staff will continue to work through Metrolinx and consult with Toronto and TTC staff where appropriate in advocating for the Yonge subway extension

Currently, the main source of funding for rapid transit project can come from either the Province or the Federal Government or both and the project priority is determined generally by Metrolinx through The Big Move priorities. Metrolinx has an established process for identifying funding priorities through project business cases. In general, beyond the funding that has already been announced, further rapid transit project funding will require a Metrolinx investment strategy that is approved by the Province. Metrolinx is currently developing the investment strategy and Provincial legislation requires Metrolinx to table the investment strategy by June 2013.

Therefore, York Region staff will continue to work with Metrolinx on the business case and advocate for the Yonge subway extension to Richmond Hill Centre to senior levels of government.

Staff will provide an update on the Yonge subway extension before the end of 2012 and will continue to report as further developments occur including the release of the Metrolinx investment strategy

Regional staff from the Transportation and Community Planning Department and York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, working together, will be updating Regional Council on the status of the unfunded Yonge subway extension before the end of 2012. Regional staff will continue to monitor the situation in the City of Toronto and the development and release of the Metrolinx investment strategy with regard to implications on the rapid transit plan in York Region. Further updates as events unfold at Metrolinx or the City of Toronto will be presented to Regional Council at the appropriate time.

Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas